

The History of Fascism in Ukraine with Professor Barry Lituchy (2015)

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Professor Barry Lituchy of Medgar Evers College discusses the history of Ukraine and how it led to the current outburst of fascism and war.

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my name is Barry Pucci I teach history emeritus college are the City University of New York my presentation today is to give an overview of the history of fascism in the Ukraine and show that it is an indigenous it is now very much an indigenous movement part of a long history in Ukraine sponsored both by German imperialism and American imperialism for their own purposes but actually the history is even broader than that and I think one of the things that is really that I'm going to really try to bring out is the fact that the United States has done a terrific job from the point of view of the CIA and US history or US imperialism from the imperialist point of view of promoting fascism and keeping it alive and allowing it to re-establish itself in the 21st century in the Ukraine far I would say that US promotion of fascism and has been more successful even than German Nazi incredible well let me start at the beginning in the beginning Ukrainians and Russians were one people united by a common language a common religion a common state a common culture common territory and a common history the first Russian state as many of you know was Kiev and ruse established an 860 in the Common Era lasting until the 12 40s during this time there was no distinction between Ukrainians and Russians as there should not be today Kiev in Rus territories extended from the Western Carpathian Mountains which today are a border between the Ukraine and Slovakia Hungary and Romania all the

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and Slovakia Hungary and Romania all the way east to the Volga River that was Kiev and ruse this population converted as one people to the Greek Orthodox Christianity 988 under their ruler Prince Vladimir who himself converted in Crimea a church hold a very sacred to both Russians and Ukrainians still marks that's very spot to this day the territories which today are most often associated with extreme Ukrainian nationalism and anti-russian sentiment particularly the territory known as Galicia in northwestern Ukraine and also northern bukovina which is just to the south both in the Carpathians do not have actually this long anti-russian history or sentiment as is often claimed these territories were founded in settled by Russians and even the famously anti-russian city of the live or the vault depending if you're dependent of Russian I was founded by Kiev in rulers in the early 12 hundreds Ukrainian and Russian us are one people and we can go back as far as so out of this time if you wish 2500 years ago and garroted is himself lived and rode lived among and wrote among the people in that time so the origins of the divisions between Ukrainians and Russians begins with the Mongol conquest in the 1200s and then really takes root in the 1300s when Galicia is conquered by Lithuania and actually lived the way me accompany more than galicia caliph conquered the territories someone to the east and north of Alenia and to the south or vena and even further south into central and southern Ukraine by

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into central and southern Ukraine by 1444 though the Lithuanian man he taken over by a Polish monarchy because of intermarriage and Polish kings ruled Galicia until 1772 but it was the Polish land owning aristocracy that changed things for the Ukrainian population there they imposed a very brutal form of serfdom particularly in terms of the use of the cord a kind of chain gang slave labor and they also imposed a cultural religious persecution or oppression the serfdom so I'll get into that in a moment many Ukrainian peasants did flee from this and they went to the forests or the steppes and joined small societies of free armed men called Cossacks of course that is a Turkish word meaning free man and like in a lot of Slavic languages Arabic Turkish words Cossacks existed of course both in the Ukraine and Russia the Polish nobility in order to tighten their control over the Ukrainian peasantry created a new church and this is a very important historical event relating to later on to Ukrainian fascism this church was called the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church or the Union Church what it unified really was the Ukrainian peasantry with the papacy as well as with the Polish nobility this church was established of the infamous Council were pressed in 1596 by forcing conversion to this new church under Catholic control both the Catholic Church and the Polish nobility extended their control over the pocket of the Ukrainian population but this forced

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Ukrainian population but this forced conversion I think should be seen as a kind of genocide over a one soon people this religious division is most it is to this day mostly as that was in Galicia that's where the Union Church is strongest but in this way Poland and the Roman Catholic Church were able to tear apart tear away I'm sorry a part of the Ukrainian people and oh and a piece of territory from the Ukrainian people really forever after 300 years this church does become deeply entrenched in Valencina and Bukovina and I want to stress that CIA documents which now have been Declassified regarding Ukrainian and I mean there's extensive documents a lot of them don't have a lot of information but I think one thing that comes out if you if you read them and you should read them is that almost so many of them repeat over and over again that those most likely to support Ukrainian nationalist movements or Ukrainian fascism were unions members of the Ukrainian church this is not as true today as it was say 34 years ago but for the 20th century it was very true in the 1660s there were massive uprisings though by some Ukrainians and in central Ukraine and eastern Ukraine against the Polish nobility these were led by Cossacks and their headman leaders and these territories actually fought to rejoin Russia and did so ultimately leaving just that northwestern portion in Poland the Galicia that's why that remains unions to this

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that's why that remains unions to this day but ironically this is hailed today by Ukrainian nationalist historians as a great moment in the Ukrainian history which it is even though it provides it is a precedent for what's going on in eastern Ukraine today a group of crane Ian's who do not want to be part of this colonial of this Colombian ISM which then was a Poland today of the United States and the West Poland was finally partitioned and swallowed up by Prussia Russia and Austria in late 1700s and during the first partition in 1772 the Lithuanian Bukovina were taken over by Austria the Austrian empire Austria's so from 1772 to 1918 1919 Galicia and Bukovina are part of the Austro-Hungarian empire later Austro-Hungarian empire Austria's ruling Habsburg monarchy were the chief protectors of the Roman Catholic Church and the first practitioners of this of what became known as the German imperialist idea of Levin's realm the Austrians relaxed the serfdom in Galicia and Bukovina and in 1848 thanks to the revolutions of that year completely abolished serfdom but they increase the pressure on the Ukrainian population through religious persecution thousands of Jesuits were sent into these territories and even beyond the terror the Ukrainian territories into the Russian Empire with the goal of subverting the Orthodox Church and converting people to the to the Union's Church so we can see here the beginnings of German imperialism in Galicia and

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of German imperialism in Galicia and beyond in effect the order of the the Greek Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church served as a springboard for what became known as the wrong knock Austin or Germany's drive to the east and this was a Habsburg policy before it was a Bismarckian policy or a Hitler in policy so Galicia was this beachhead for austro-german expansionism to the east and the Union Church was the vehicle by the way the Habsburg followed a similar policy in the Balkans as the Union Church converted orthodox serves in the southern Austrian territories and expanded Croatia step-by-step resuming Orthodox populations under Roman Catholic Church and austro-german control over the course of this long foreign occupation from the 1300s until World War one Catholic rulers solidified their rule and their cultural influence they preached hatred of Russians and of Russian orthodoxy and of Jews and of Judaism this is the origin of ukrainian fascism instigated by German imperialism but it does take a life of its own the first great leader of ukrainian nationalism in modern times was not surprisingly a Ukrainian Greek Catholic or Union cleric from Galicia Semyon peddler he tried to hidden in in the 1890s he tried like the Jesuits before him they tried to infiltrate Russian Orthodox seminaries in order to subvert him he was eventually expelled and reveal and he joined an organization called revolutionary cranium party which became which became this main vehicle for promoting Ukrainian national extreme Ukrainian nationals prior to 1914 though

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Ukrainian nationals prior to 1914 though he was just known as an ultra national Journal's but the Russian Revolution thrust him into power he became the military leader of the self-proclaimed ukrainian republic which was declared in November of 1917 and he even designed the Ukrainian flag which is still the Ukrainian flag to this day he proclaimed Ukrainian as the only official language in the Ukraine banning all others exactly what the government that came to power after nineteen in 19 2014 did recently he and like today's Ukrainian nationalists he condemned all quote foreign elements in the Ukraine meaning Jews Russians and poles but in Galicia in particular poles and Jews actually made up the majority of the population there were two million Jews and there were two million Jews in the Ukraine not to mention millions of Russians as well so what what to do as military leader of the Ukrainian Republic yet Laura organized 1204 grumbles from 1917 to 1920 killing 200,000 Jews in this period eleven and when the Russian and Jewish workers in Kiev rose up in Revolt around the famous Arsenal factory he murdered calling them foreign invaders Pat Laura so this is this is the background of today's Ukrainian nationalism this is this is the these are the precedents and the heroes of their movement today peddler personally led a pogrom in my gran father's town of Josh gova in central Ukraine most of my grandfather's family most of my family survived two were shot but most survived because we were able to

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most survived because we were able to purchase our lives Jews without money were marched to the synagogue and burned alive and this story was recounted to me about my grandfather's sister 33 years ago we were so you're lucky just to get robbed by Laura the Germans occupied the Ukraine briefly in 1918 and saw the possibility of using the Ukrainian regime for their own expansionist aspirations but they lost the war and they had to retreat the Soviets came back peddlers and cut Laura's armies retreated into Poland they made a deal with kill suits Keys government in Poland and in night in the polish-soviet war of 1920 Pasillas armies managed to retake a good portion of the western ukraine but they ended up just stabbing the Ukrainians in the back and pet Laura's men were all arrested and sent to internment camps in 1921 Laura himself ran away in Paris where he was he got his his what was coming to him from a Jewish survivor from one of the bombs killed him in revenge for the murder of his parents thousands of Western Ukrainians fought who had fought with Pitt Laura were imprisoned in Poland and they remained well organized it's ironic that thanks to their imprisonment kept Laura's men were able to organize themselves and shortly after Pat Laura's assassination the future fascists Ukrainian organization came out of these internment camps the organization crania Nationals or oh um the own organization of Ukrainian nationalists would be the political organization of

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would be the political organization of Ukrainian fascism during World War two it's known for having two branches one led by a man named Melnick the other by the infamous Stefan Bandera who is today hailed as one of the great heroes of Ukrainian nationalism what was the difference between these two factions not actually Bandera was really the man in charge was the head was the leader but the main difference was that Melanie and his faction were fine with the Nazis making all the decisions including decisions about the fate of whether there should be an Iranian state or not or simply the Ukrainians live under German rule Bandera did not agree with that but darris faction did not agree with that their position was to oppose Hitler and the Nazi regime if they did not allow the creation of a Ukrainian state during the 1930s of course the Nazis supported the organization of Ukrainian nationalists the UN carried out assassinate killed murders of Polish political leaders including the Interior Minister for which Bandera and several other leaders of the oun were arrested but they were all released after the Nazis invaded in September of 1939 the from 1939 to 1941 the oun was engaged in training and preparation for the invasion and occupation of the Soviet Union particularly the Ukrainian territories I should add that the Soviet Union occupied Galicia Bukovina rulinia between 1939 and 1941 so that was part of the agreement between Germany and Soviet Union one of the

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Germany and Soviet Union one of the founders of the oun besides Bandera and Melanie who is an extraordinarily important figure in 20th century history and you may not know him and he was a tremendously successful Ukrainian fascists was me cola leaded some of you may be familiar with him he graduated from a Gestapo training school and became the chief and from 1939 to 41 became the chief torturer of political prisoners in Cracow murdering poles and Jews and Russians whoever he came in contact by early 1941 the UN also had recruited tens of thousands of soldiers for military service several thousand of them would form two Ukrainian battalions that Nachtigal and Rowland battalions who would be in the vanguard of the invasion of Galicia and Western Ukraine there were thousands of other a UN soldiers who were put into units known as the Nazi hilf police I or the Nazi auxiliary police I don't think we should forget about those thousands of oun soldiers because their job was to help the Einsatzgruppen carry out the holocaust and so hit you so even though they don't get much attention I think that they're worth paying some attention to because then the Isis group intended not to want to kill the women and children that was left up to the Nazi hill-hill football inside the Ukrainian auxiliary poles they also served also a certain number of Ukrainian own un men were sent to serve in as guards and in the new death camps in Poland although it's Sobibor triplicates

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it's Sobibor triplicates and so so these this Oh UN played an enormous role in in killing millions of people in in World War two and all of the ukrainian units were always staffed with with a retinue of Ukrainian Greek Catholic clergy the nocta golf battalion captured live or live on June 29 1941 the next day ponderous deputy Yaroslav Stetz co announced on radio the independent state of the Ukraine without Nazi approval he declared Bandera would be the President's desk oh would be the prime minister by the West Ezio is still hail today as one of the great figures in Ukrainian history by the ukrainian nationalists today i think this is universally agreed upon by foreign nationals and Lebon as Minister of the Interior good job Priam steps though then declared in this radio broadcast quote I support the destruction of the Jews and of bringing German methods of exterminating jewelry to Ukraine Jews we will lay your heads at Hitler's feet unquote Bandera who we are told as [__] was just who were told today by the Ukrainian nationalists is just a good was just a good Ukrainian Patriot also made the following comments to the media quote Jews constitute the most faithful support of the ruling Bolshevik regime and the vanguard of muscovite imperialism in Ukraine true to their word the oun battalions killed twelve thousand Jews in just July and August 1941 although the Nazis of course did not support what the oun was doing

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did not support what theOUN was doing and so by September Bandera gets going live it were arrested and put in a very comfortable in comfortable apartments in the sucks in housing concentration camp even though it was a concentration camp they were allowed to have telephones and and communication and come to go actually but by 1943 the Germans began to lose the war and that's when they changed their policies as they were losing the war they began to give theOUN more power so they began first they created the Ukrainian SS division the 14th SS division valencian and then in 1944 the Nazis said go ahead take it take the Ukraine as the Nazis were retreating and theOUN all theOUN leaders were then released in 1944 and they established instead of theOUN they replaced that with something called the supreme Ukrainian liberation council which would exist until the 1990s by the way this is the fascist government in exile that the United States and the CIA supported all through right up until the 1990s and it's Army would be called the UPA or the Ukrainian insurgent army their first mission killed 10,000 poles in Galicia to reduce the numbers remember I told you in Galicia poles and Jews made up a majority of the population well they already took care of the Jews now it's time to kill some poles in 80 separate operations on just one day they managed to kill 10,000 poles Soviet forces over and the UPA and along with 250,000 other valencian Ukrainians Bandera fled to the American and British occupation zones in Germany they survived but German imperialism would no longer be their employer now it fell to the United States and Britain in in 1998 there's a very interesting history there was commissioned by the CIA a secret history which was then

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CIA a secret history which was then Declassified in 2006 actually entitled quote Cold War allies : the origins of CIA relationships with Ukrainian national the author was Kevin Ruffner according to this report the strategic service unit which was the precursor it was in between the OSS and the CIA precursor CIA began to recruit quote espionage agents unquote from among Ukrainian fascists immediately after the war ended in 1945 I think this is an important point from the DP camps the report goes on to say that the SS this is now this is the CIA talking not me the SSU recruited them because the u.s. like its ally Great Britain expected war to break out or to be created with the Soviet Union immediately the US government wanted these agents for two purposes according to the CIA report one covert operations in Soviet territory and two pattern military operations in Soviet territory now this comes from the CIA's Vulcan House history within a few years also 12,000 Ukrainian fascists would be imported to the United States despite their war crimes so contrary to an anti-fashion to the image of an anti-fascist American government at the end of World War two who would never start the Cold War mind you we instead see the CIA telling us in their own in-house history then yes the Soviet image portrayed of the US as a Nazi loving imperialist aggressor hell-bent on with Russia was in fact the truth it also this report also confirms what Soviet so-called propaganda was saying that the USSR and the Warsaw Pact allies were on the receiving end of decades of

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were on the receiving end of decades of u.s. sponsored covert military operations from the beginning of 1946 all the way to 1991 the United States Britain and Russia had the Moscow agreement of 1943 promising to return returned war criminals to their countries where they committed their crimes but the US and Britain violated this agreement from day one and didn't begin to get concerned about war criminals until they had to fight until they had to break up your Slavia and arrest Serbs for war crimes according to this CIA history by 1946 the SSU had compiled extensive records on thousands of Ukrainian fascists and you can read these these are online actually and we're working hard to get them operational for terrorist attacks the CIA report calls these terrorist attacks from 1947 to 54 the CIA organized dozens of military raids by UPA soldiers into Soviet territory meanwhile CIA director Allen Dulles and NSA adviser George Kennan push to bring tens of ten more thousands of Ukrainian fascists and other fascists into the United States for quote national security reasons Chris Simpson a historian who has written a book called blowback wrote something that's very interesting about this he said the the US with its ratlines brought war criminals into the United States but they didn't just disappear into the population instead they established new cells in their various ethnic

communities in and not just in the United States but in all countries and they were headed by the same men who led the murder squads and survived and spread these movements thanks to the United States and the CIA and they are active to this day and they pose a threat to the world and in the

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pose a threat to the world and in the end they poisoned and not safai the very political cultures of the host countries - I think that's truly blowback that's exactly what / Simpson wanted to get across in a wonderful many years ago until 1954 the Union priests even cleaning oak was the recognized leader by the CIA of Ukrainian fascism Ukrainian nationalism of the supreme Ukrainian council and on every CIA report about Karella that I've read anyway it usually says two things one quote the subject is aware he is working with the CIA and to quote could be the leader of an independent Ukraine in times of war with the USSR but at the end of 54 honey look simply resigned and and from that point on until the 1990s the man who became the global leader of the Ukrainian fascist and ultra nationalist movement was Nikola lemon lemon was very well protected by the CIA he lived in a very comfortable house in Yonkers in Westchester County maybe near Westfall I don't know he was given several CIA funded companies the most notable was prologue which was a global operation which was which received tens of millions of dollars at the very at the very minimum every year from the CIA and did all kinds of publishing including anti-russian anti-soviet publishing what happened to Brent Bandera instead so and Aaron's debts go continue to have their operation based in Munich and from 47 until 52 they were supported by mi6 in my sector and their their operation but their operations were continually

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their operations were continually getting clobbered in when they went when they did their opposite soviet union of course the British they know at the time was kim Philby who was filling in the soviets about what was going on after 52 West Germany spy agency the agency this VND which was still headed at that time by Galen the former Nazi intelligence head took over and financed by Derek and steps codes operation until 1959 this is something that's not very well known that West Germany continued to sponsor fascist operations against the Soviet Union in the 1950s at that at that point the CIA was willing to give Bandera another try at 59 but just before he was to leave for Washington he was captured by a KGB guy and killed they sprayed cyanide in his face so that was the end of Bandera instead scope Leben went on to become a major figure in the Republican Party he was a he was also very close to the Democrats in the 1970s he was a close friend and confidant of Speaker Newt Brzezinski he was a group using advisor to speaker deficiency and a very close friend with Jimmy Carter by the way a Nazi Jimmy Carter oh he's such a humanitarian he's friends with Nazis come on Ronald Reagan and George Bush of course were good friends as well and he was financed regularly right up until 1992 when he was no longer needed but by the time Levitt died in 1998 he was he was able to take great satisfaction in seeing that his success the new generation of neo-fascist Ukrainian Union forces had taken his place so for example in 1991 Levitt was

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place so for example in 1991 Levitt was able to meet with the social National Party which was founded by among others all their tea a book by the way at that time that party today is called Spa motive but at that time was called the social National Party what does that mean it means National Socialists right its symbols were a swastika today of course I said that party is called Swoboda it's dropped its Nazi symbols but its youth organization has in fact continued the racist rhetoric and is has has spun off a whole series of paramilitary neo-nazi organizations including the most recent the most very well known neo-nazi battalion the Azov battalion which is therefore actually a spin-off of sivasdas youth organization and now is based in Mariupol and is on the front lines fighting against novorossiia against the eastern Ukrainian Russian and Russian population there and but you know there's such a proliferation now they have come about in the in the last 10 years of neo-nazi or paramilitary groups youth organizations that no one and Savona doesn't want sobota is means motive is a very dishonest and dangerous organization I think we can agree the fact that it pretends

to be a mainstream and anti-fascist organization is just not true based on what we know about all the spin-offs from this from this party now of course so vota has lost quite a bit as a result of the recent elections in 2014 they went from having 37 delegates in lerato which was about 11%

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delegates in lerato which was about 11% to now having only 6 but the the reality is is that there's so many all turn a tional esthetical organizations behind for support in the ukraine today that there's no one single one that is able to to become the center of this of this movement which is the rich is really an adjunct to the popular face of the problem poroshenko so what we have and then the rest of the last few years is I don't even have to talk about perhaps the other speaker will talk about I mean we know Victoria Nuland has has mentioned and ambassador Piatti has mentioned that the US and CIA spent four billion dollars in helping the Maidan protesters overthrow the Democrat the last democratically elected president of the Ukraine young Yanukovych what they have done is they have destroyed any possibility of any kind of workable democratically elected unified Ukraine humpty-dumpty has fallen and he's not going to be put back together and so now the question is what what's next partition seems to be the only solution thank you very much [Applause]

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